(b) if so, whether the old tracks have been identified; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Repair and maintenance of railway track in all sections, is a continuous process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need for ensuring safety of traffic. Track is inspected regularly and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. Speed restrictions are also imposed for ensuring safety, if the situation so warrants. Track renewals are also undertaken on age-cum-condition basis and subject to availability of funds and are approved by Parliament as a part of Railway Budget.

(c) The year-wise track renewals sanctioned for last two years are as under.

Year	CTR (Complete Track Renewal) Unit, Km.
2003-04	2890
2004-05	2740

Security of women passengers

†1999. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government are taking for the security of women passengers in the context of report (October, 2004) related to public hearing of women train passengers by the National Commission for Women;

(b) the percentage of trains which have arrangements of separate railway coaches for women passengers;

(c) whether Government are considering to appoint women ticket checkers; and

(d) by when Railways is going to appoint women constables in Railway Protection Force?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Special care has been taken by the Railways to provide security to women passengers. Special squads in the form of Surakshni, Tejaswani, Durgavahni and Bhairavi consisting of lady Railway Protection Force constables and lady ticket examiners have been deployed in the affected areas of Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Patna sub-urban sections. Further, armed Government Railway Police personnel are also escorting ladies compartment in night hours over Mumbai sub-urban sections. Additional railway Protection Force staff have been posted in affected section to enhance security of women passengers.

(b) In all the passenger carrying trains, one compartment or such number of berths/seats, as required, are earmarked for the exclusive use of ladies.

(c) For appointment as Ticket Collector on Railways, both men and women can apply. No earmarking is done on the basis of gender.

(d) Railway Protection Force has 575 women staff.

Port Link Track

†2000. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has introduced any special scheme named as Port Link Track for fast and time bound transportation of goods related to import-export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the ports for which the said scheme has been introduced, so far;

(d) to what extent it would boost the import and export; and

(e) to what extent Railways would get benefit from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.